

SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION 

CHECK YOUR JUDGES

Your voting guide to Cook County's
2022 judicial primary elections



InjusticeWatch

Learn more about our work at injusticewatch.org.

Roadmap to the races

All primary races are on the Democratic ballot unless otherwise noted. For subcircuits, voters will see only those contests on their ballot for the subcircuit in which they reside.



Clip, mark your choices, and take with you

APPELLATE COURT

2 vacancies

Hall vacancy

- Russell "Russ" Hartigan
- Dominique C. Ross
- Debra B. Walker

Harris vacancy

- Raymond W. Mitchell
- Devlin Joseph Schoop
- John H. Ehrlich

Candidate profiles start on Page 3

WHAT TO KNOW

This year's Illinois primary elections are on June 28.

Early voting in Chicago's 50 wards and sites in suburban Cook County starts June 13. To find your polling place:

City residents: www.chicagoelections.gov

Suburban Cook County residents: www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/elections

Who can vote?

Voters must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and reside in their precinct for at least 30 days prior to Election Day. People with felony convictions can vote in Illinois as long as they are not serving a felony sentence in prison or jail.

▼ For more information about each candidate and to locate your subcircuit, scan the QR code or visit injusticewatch.org/judges.



COUNTYWIDE CIRCUIT COURT

10 vacancies

Brennan vacancy

- Howard B. Brookins, Jr.
- Ubi O. O'Neal
- Lisa Michelle Taylor

Callahan Jr. vacancy

- Mary Bernadette McMahon
- Suzanne Therese McEneely
- Tracie Porter

Cannon vacancy

- Diana López
- Monica G. Somerville
- Mable Taylor

Hyman vacancy

- Thomas E. Nowinski
- Carmen Migdalia Quinones

Ingram vacancy

- Elizabeth "Beth" Ryan
- Yolanda Harris Sayre

Leeming vacancy

- Rena Marie Van Tine
- Wende Williams

Lynch vacancy

- Deidre Baumann
- Paul Joyce
- Michael Weaver

McGury vacancy

- Ruth Isabel Gudino
- Chelsey Renece Robinson

O'Brien vacancy

- Araceli R. De La Cruz
- Jacqueline Marie Griffin
- Dan Balanoff

Sullivan vacancy

- Thomas More Donnelly
- Claudia Silva-Hernandez
- Meridith Vanae Hammer

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SUBCIRCUIT COURT 17 vacancies

1st: Johnson vacancy

- Maria M. Barlow
- John W. Wilson

4th: Gavin vacancy

- Nick Kantas
- Amanda Moira Pillsbury

4th: Rogers vacancy

- Jerry Barrido
- Chloe Georgianna Pedersen
- ShawnTe Raines-Welch
- Patrick Campanelli

5th: Portman-Brown vacancy

- David L. Kelly
- Jenetia Marshall

5th: Shelley vacancy

- Timothy W. Wright, III
- Judie Lyn Smith
- Tiffany N. Brooks
- Jackie Marie Portman-Brown

6th: Araujo vacancy

- Charles "Charlie" Beach (unopposed)

6th: Vega vacancy

- David S. Rodriguez
- Kerrie Maloney Laytin

7th: Martin vacancy

- Marcia O'Brien Conway
- Owens "Joe" Shelby

8th: Gordon vacancy

- Pat Casey
- Bradley R. Trowbridge
- John Fritchey

8th: Lipscomb vacancy

- Jennifer Bae
- Stephen Swedlow

9th: Cleveland vacancy

- Sanjay Tailor
- Ann Buran-Vongher

9th: Jacobius vacancy

- Basileios "Bill" John Foutris
- Torrick Alan Ward
- Barry Goldberg
- Don R. Sampen

11th: McGuire vacancy

- Chris Taliaferro
- Aileen Bhandari

13th: Groebner vacancy (Republican)

- Christine Svenson
- Gary William Seyring
- Dominic J Buttitta, Jr

13th: Groebner vacancy (Dem)

- James "Jack" Costello
- Joe Gump

14th: Brown vacancy

- Iris Y. Chavira (unopposed)

14th: Jagielski vacancy

- Steve Demitro
- Viviana Martinez
- Jorge V. Cazares

15th: Lawler vacancy

- Bernadette Barrett
- Jim Gleffe

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Why you should check your judges

Judicial candidates might be among the most obscure names on your ballot, but these elections come with high stakes. Judges are powerful officials whose choices on the bench touch many aspects of life, from traffic tickets to divorces, lawsuits, evictions, and criminal cases. They have the power to take someone's freedom, enforce or overturn state laws, and correct or perpetuate injustices. Yet there are few places to get information about the people running for judge. That's why Injustice Watch created this guide to judicial candidates running in Cook County's primary elections on June 28, 2022.

Illinois voters elect judges every two years. This year, 75 candidates are running for 29 judicial vacancies in Cook County. Every voter will get to choose candidates to fill two appel-

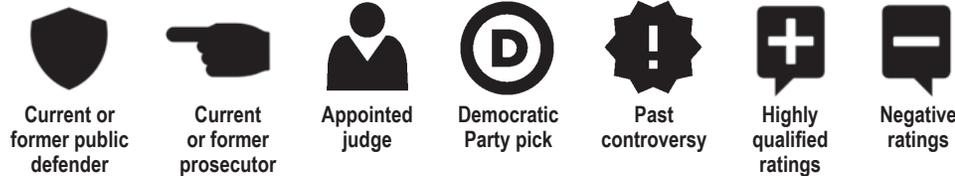


late court seats and 10 circuit court seats. You may also have one or two subcircuit races on your ballot depending on where you live. Judges elected from subcircuits have the same responsibilities as other circuit court judges, but only people who live in that subcircuit can vote for them.

Our team spent months researching the candidates' legal experience, community involvement, donors, political connections, conduct, and controversies. We sent every candidate a survey asking why they deserve your vote. And we collected recommendations from 13 bar associations, groups of lawyers who interview and rate candidates.

A condensed version of our findings, edited for space and clarity, appears here. For more detailed candidate profiles, visit injusticewatch.org/judges.

Understanding the candidate icons



Current or former public defender: This candidate has served as a public defender, representing clients in criminal court who can't afford a private attorney.

Current or former prosecutor: This candidate has served as prosecutor in criminal or quasi-criminal (such as traffic court) cases at the city, county, state, or federal level.

Appointed judge: When a judicial vacancy opens at any level, the Illinois Supreme Court appoints someone to fill the seat until after the next election. Candidates with this icon were appointed to the court at some point.

Democratic Party pick: The Cook County Democratic Party endorses candidates for appellate court and countywide circuit court seats but not for subcircuit seats.

Past controversy: The candidate has been involved in some kind of personal or professional controversy.

Highly qualified ratings: Two or more bar associations have rated this candidate highly qualified or recommended. Not all bar associations give out ratings higher than qualified. But those that do have suggested that this candidate is particularly well-suited to be a judge.

Negative ratings: At least two bar associations have said this candidate is not recommended or not qualified to be a judge. Candidates who don't participate in the ratings process are automatically rated as not recommended. For complete bar association ratings, visit injusticewatch.org/judges.

About the endorsers

This guide includes endorsements, available by press time, from labor groups and other political organizations that have a defined process for endorsing judicial candidates. We exclude endorsements from individual politicians or community leaders.

Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL): An umbrella organization of more than 300 local labor unions in Chicago and Cook County.

Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO): A nonprofit, independent political organization focused on voter education, voter registration, and candidate endorsements.

Personal PAC: An abortion-rights political organization focused on ensuring access to abortion in Illinois.

APPELLATE COURT

Russell "Russ" Hartigan



Experience:

Goldstine, Skrodzki, Russian, Nemeč and Hoff, Ltd.

- Partner (2017-present): Serves as a mediator and practices civil litigation.



Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2010-2017): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court, then elected in 2012. Presided over civil jury and non-jury trials in the Bridgeview courthouse.

Various law firms

- Partner (1981-2010): Operated firm with different partners through the years, defending municipalities in lawsuits, handling worker's compensation and personal injury cases, and serving as a mediator and arbitrator.

Notable: Hartigan resigned from the circuit court in 2017 due to an illness in his family. He ran unsuccessfully for circuit judge again in 2020 and applied to be an associate judge in 2021 but was not selected. Hartigan has also served numerous stints as an elected official in several suburban Cook County communities, including Lyons Township, where he's a former township supervisor, school board member and trustee, and Western Springs, where he served on the zoning board and is also a former village board trustee.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all bar groups and highly recommended or highly qualified by two.

Dominique C. Ross



Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2008-present): Hears divorce, child custody and other cases in the domestic relations division.



Attorney in private practice

- (1995-2008): Focused on family law.

Notable: Ross is a former chair of the Illinois Judicial Council, an association of Black judges. Ross was sued in 2009 by an election attorney she hired for allegedly failing to pay him more than \$60,000 for his work. Ross counter-sued, saying the attorney had exceeded his estimated

HALL VACANCY

hours without telling her. The case was ultimately settled. Several attorneys told Injustice Watch that Ross has been known for showing up late to court and has, on occasion, missed or continued hearings. At least one attorney mentioned she has improved in recent years. In a statement, Ross said she could not adequately respond without knowing the specifics of the allegations. "It is more likely than not that a circumstance arose outside of my immediate control at the time and that was the reason I was not present for an undated and unspecified amount of my 1000's of hearings set to be heard from 2008 to 2022," she wrote. "In either circumstance, tardy or not attended, the amount would surely be at the most overly exaggerated of averages, less than a fraction of a percent. Therefore, I reject the characterization of tardiness and not showing up being a reputation and I find it insulting."

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by six bar associations. Three bars rated her not qualified or not recommended. The other evaluations were not available by press time.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

Debra B. Walker



Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2008-present): Currently serves in the domestic relations division presiding over divorce cases.



Clausen Miller, P.C.

- Partner (1996-2008): Represented professionals accused of malpractice and judges accused of misconduct by the Judicial Inquiry Board. Brydges, Riseborough, Peterson, Franke and Morris
- Senior associate (1993-1996)

Notable: Before going to law school, Walker was a certified public accountant. Walker is a former chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, which conducts training for lawyers and judges.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by five bar associations and highly qualified or highly recommended by four. The other evaluations were not available by press time.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO, Personal PAC

APPELLATE COURT

Raymond W. Mitchell



Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2008-present): Hears cases in the chancery division, where people bring lawsuits asking a judge to order something to happen. Previously presided over trials in civil lawsuits over business disputes.



Winston and Strawn LLP

- Partner and associate (1998-2008): Handled cases in state and federal appellate courts.

Notable: Last year, in a lawsuit filed by the Fraternal Order of Police, Mitchell ruled that the City of Chicago had to negotiate its Covid-19 vaccine mandate for city employees with the police union through arbitration, halting the mandate for police officers covered by the union. An arbitrator ultimately upheld the vaccine mandate. In 2018, Mitchell dismissed a lawsuit filed against the City of Chicago by two residents over the city's water pipe modernization program. The residents claimed the city's work to replace water mains and meters had caused lead to enter their water and that the city had failed to properly notify residents of the danger. Mitchell's decision was upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by six bar associations and highly qualified or highly recommended by four others by press time.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

Devlin Joseph Schoop



Experience:

The Cochran Firm Chicago

- Partner (2019-present): Represents plaintiffs in civil rights, police misconduct, and catastrophic personal injury cases.

City of Chicago Law Department

- Assistant corporation counsel (2017-2019): Represented the city and police officers in misconduct cases.

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2015-2016): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court. Heard traffic cases and later child abuse and neglect cases.

Laner Muchin, Ltd.

- Partner (2008-2015): Represented employers in sexual harassment, discrimination, wage disputes, and other employment cases.
- Associate (2003-2007)

Wildman Harrold Allen & Dixon, LLP.

- Associate (1999-2003): Focused on commercial cases.

Notable: Schoop ran unsuccessfully for circuit judge in 2016 and 2018. He currently represents



HARRIS VACANCY

a group of Black City of Chicago Water Department employees who are suing the city for alleged discrimination and a hostile work environment. The lawsuit was filed in 2017, shortly before the city's inspector general released a report that found supervisors in the department exchanged racist, sexist, and homophobic emails. In 2014, Cook County Chief Judge Tim Evans appointed Schoop's then-firm, Laner Muchin, to investigate allegations of corruption and abuse at the county's probation department. Schoop played a leading role in the investigation, and shortly after, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed him as a judge. Schoop represented the City of Chicago in a civil lawsuit filed by the family of Alfontish Cockersham, who was killed in 2014 by officer Anthony Babisch. A jury awarded the family \$1.3 million.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by eight bar associations by press time. The Hellenic Bar Association found him not recommended, and the Illinois State Bar Association found him not qualified.

Endorsements: Personal PAC

John H. Ehrlich



Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2012-present): Hears pre-trial motions for civil lawsuits in the law division. Previously presided over foreclosure and traffic court cases.



City of Chicago Law Department

- Deputy corporation counsel, torts division (2008-2012): Represented the city in wrongful death and personal injury cases.
- Assistant corporation counsel and chief assistant corporation counsel, torts division (1995-2008)

Notable: In 2017, Ehrlich dismissed several combined lawsuits filed by 53 former NFL players against helmet manufacturer Riddell. Ehrlich said the players failed to file their suit within the two-year statute of limitations. The appeals court upheld his decision.

If elected, Ehrlich says he would be the first LGBTQ+ appellate court judge in the state.

Some of Ehrlich's top campaign contributors are personal injury attorneys whose cases could come before him in the law division. Ehrlich said in a statement that it's not a conflict of interest because, "I do not know who has or has not contributed to my campaign committee or the amount of any contribution."

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by six bar associations. The Women's Bar Association of Illinois and the Chicago Bar Association found him highly qualified. The Illinois State Bar Association found him not qualified.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO, Personal PAC

CIRCUIT COURT

Howard B. Brookins, Jr.



Experience:

Chicago City Council

- Alderperson, 21st Ward (2003-present): Represents neighborhoods on the South Side.



Law Office of Howard B. Brookins, Jr.

- Attorney in private practice (1990-present): Focused on criminal defense, estate, personal injury and contract dispute cases.
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- Assistant state's attorney (1989-1990)
- Cook County Public Defender's Office
- Assistant public defender (1988-1989)

Notable: Brookins ran unsuccessfully for Cook County state's attorney in 2008 and the U.S. House in 2016. As an alderperson, Brookins pushed for years to get Wal-Mart to build a store in his ward and voted against an ordinance that would have mandated a higher minimum wage at big-box stores. He previously chaired the council's Black Caucus. In 2006, he called on the City Council to stop paying to represent disgraced former police Cmdr. Jon Burge in lawsuits related to his torture of Black men in the 1980s and '90s. In 2016, his former chief of staff pleaded guilty to accepting a \$7,500 bribe to help arrange a letter of support for a liquor license for a business owner who turned out to be an FBI informant. Brookins was not charged with wrongdoing. In 2020, the Chicago Board of Ethics fined Brookins \$5,000, saying that alderpeople are not permitted to represent clients in criminal cases involving Chicago police. Brookins has challenged the board's decision in court. In an interview, he said he felt a "broad-scale prohibition" on alderpeople practicing criminal law "seems to be a bridge way too far."

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations that were available by press time.

Endorsements: CFL

BRENNAN VACANCY

Ubi O. O'Neal



Experience:

The O'Neal Law Firm, LLC

- Principal (1993-present): Wide-ranging practice includes criminal defense, medical malpractice, family law, and bankruptcy litigation.



Notable: O'Neal ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2018 and 2020. In 1999, the Illinois Supreme Court censured O'Neal for legal misconduct after he directed his client's wife to fraudulently endorse a settlement check so that he could be paid for his work and improperly communicated with a client who was represented by another attorney. In an email, O'Neal said, "Censure reflects that the violation was not so serious (as) to warrant a sanction, as a result, censure does not affect the ability of a lawyer to continue to practice law."

Bar association ratings: Did not participate in the evaluation process.

Lisa Michelle Taylor

Experience:

Schwartz Gilligan

- Associate (2017-present): Represents defendants in car accidents and other cases involving injuries or insurance claims.



Henderson Parks, LLC

- Attorney (2013-2017): Represented plaintiffs in personal injury, medical malpractice, and police misconduct lawsuits.

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

- Partner (2005-2013): Represented defendants in medical and nursing home negligence, car accident, and other civil lawsuits.

Pretzel & Stouffer

- Attorney (2002-2005): Represented defendants in medical malpractice and other civil lawsuits.

Worker, Sitko & Hoffman, LLC

- Attorney (2001-2002)

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

CIRCUIT COURT

Mary Bernadette McMahon

Experience:

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (2005-present): Supervises all of the prosecutors and oversees felony and misdemeanor cases at the Skokie courthouse. Previously was a deputy supervisor at the Rolling Meadows courthouse and prosecuted felony cases.



Notable: McMahon hails from the wealthy and politically connected family that owns McMahon Food Corp., a dairy distribution company. In the early 2000s, the company held lucrative contracts to distribute milk to Chicago Public Schools, the Cook County Jail, and the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, according to a 2012 Chicago Sun-Times/Better Government Association investigation. In a statement, McMahon said she previously owned shares of the company but divested from it in 2007. McMahon's cousin, Joseph Birkett, is an Illinois appellate judge and former DuPage County state's attorney. Her sister, Frances McMahon Kushner, is also an assistant Cook County state's attorney.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by seven bar associations and highly qualified by the Chicago Bar Association. The other evaluations were not available by press time.

Endorsements: CFL

CALLAHAN JR. VACANCY

Suzanne Therese McEneely

Experience:

Cook County Public Defender's Office

- Assistant public defender (2002-present): Has worked in a variety of roles within the office, including the abuse and neglect division, the domestic violence division, and the criminal division.



Notable: McEneely ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2020. She does not have a current campaign website or a visible social media presence.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all and highly recommended by Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association.

Endorsements: Personal PAC

Tracie Porter

Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2021-present): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court. Serves in the traffic division.



Law Office of Tracie R. Porter

- Attorney in private practice (1998-2000, 2004-2006, 2017-2021): Focused on real estate transactions, contracts, estate planning, and entertainment law.
- Law professor (2004-2021): Taught courses, including legal research and writing, real estate law, and trusts and estates.

Brown Udell & Pomerantz, Ltd.

- Associate (2003-2004): Focused on real estate transactions and litigation.
- Associate (2000-2003): Focused on commercial real estate leases and sales.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all and highly qualified or highly recommended by four bar associations.

CIRCUIT COURT

Diana López

Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Associate judge (2021-present): Hears traffic cases at the Richard J. Daley Center in Chicago.

López Law Group, P.C.

- Solo practitioner (2010-2021): Focused on family law. Served as a Guardian ad Litem, or child advocate, in divorce and adoption cases. Also served as a mediator in domestic relations cases.

Monteagudo, López & Díaz, LLC

- Managing partner (2006-2010): Focused on family and adoption law.

Nancy C. Murphy & Associates

- Associate (2004-2006)

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (2001-2004): Represented the state in child protection and child support enforcement cases.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all bar associations.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC



Monica G. Somerville

Experience:

City of Chicago Department of Finance

- Deputy director of citation administration and accounts receivable (2018-2021): Oversaw the division that resolves ticket disputes and works with outside vendors who collect ticket debt for the city.

Chicago City Council Finance Committee

- Executive director and director of workers' compensation (2013-2017): Oversaw the city's workers' compensation program under Ald. Ed Burke.

Illinois Department of Employment Security

- Supervising administrative law judge (2009-2013): Supervised eight administrative law judges hearing unemployment benefits appeals.
- Administrative law judge (2003-2007): Reviewed appeals to unemployment benefit claims.

U.S. Postal Service Law Department

- Attorney (2007-2009): Represented the postal service in employment discrimination cases.

City of Chicago Law Department

- Chief assistant corporation counsel (2000-2001): Oversaw personal injury and wrongful death lawsuits against the city.



CANNON VACANCY

Notable: Somerville applied to be an associate judge in 2021 but was not selected. From 2013 to 2017, Somerville helped run the city's workers' compensation program, which was operated for decades by Ald. Ed Burke's finance committee, until federal prosecutors charged him with racketeering, extortion, and attempted bribery in 2019 (that case is still ongoing). Within weeks, the mayor commissioned an audit of the prior two years of the program, including the last year Somerville was the director, and the City Council voted to move the program under the city's Finance Department. The audit found that the program did not have measures in place to detect or prevent fraud, that data collected about workers' compensation claims was incomplete and disorganized, and that claims were not reviewed or processed according to best practices. Somerville said she would not comment about a "pending investigation and/or litigation."

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by 11 bar associations. The Illinois State Bar Association found her not qualified, and the Women's Bar Association of Illinois found her not recommended.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO

Mable Taylor

Experience:

Law Office of Mable Taylor*

- Attorney in private practice: Focuses on criminal defense, personal injury, employment law, family law, and real estate, among other types of cases.



Cook County Mandatory Arbitration Program*

- Arbitrator: Heard civil cases over small amounts of money in a program aimed to divert cases before trials.

*Injustice Watch could not verify the dates of employment, and Taylor did not provide additional information.

Notable: Taylor ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2012, 2016, 2018, and 2020 and for state representative in 2010. In 2018, Taylor represented Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown in a petition challenge in her run for Chicago mayor. Brown lost the challenge and did not appear on the ballot.

Bar association ratings: Found not qualified or not recommended by six bar associations. The Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago found her recommended. Others were not available by press time.

▼ For more information about each candidate, scan the QR code or visit injusticewatch.org/judges.



CIRCUIT COURT**HYMAN VACANCY****Thomas E. Nowinski**  **Experience:**

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

- Chief of staff (2020-present): Oversees office's operations and strategy.
- Cook County Recorder of Deeds
- Labor counsel (2018-2020): Oversaw compliance with Shakman decrees, which governs patronage hiring, and negotiated union contracts.
- Cook County Assessor's Office
- Labor counsel (2017-2018): Oversaw compliance with Shakman decrees, which governs patronage hiring, and negotiated union contracts.
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- Assistant state's attorney (2014-2017; 2004-2012): Started by prosecuting criminal cases. Later moved to the civil side of the office, representing the county in employment, civil rights, and other civil lawsuits, and ultimately serving as a supervisor.
- Cook County Department of Human Resources
- Deputy director of labor relations (2012-2014): Negotiated union contracts and represented the county in labor disputes.



Notable: Nowinski's father, also named Thomas E. Nowinski, was a Cook County circuit judge from 1991 to 2004. His sister, Christina Nowinski Wurst, is the co-founder of a consulting firm that has worked for Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, and Ald. Howard Brookins Jr. (21st Ward), who is also running for judge this year. While at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Nowinski represented the office in a civil lawsuit brought by the mother of David Koschman, who was killed by Richard J. Vanecko, a nephew of former Mayor Richard M. Daley. The suit alleged a cover-up of the incident and botching of the investigation.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

Carmen Migdalia Quinones **Experience:**

Law Offices of Carmen M. Quinones

- Attorney in private practice (1989-present): Focused primarily on family law. Also serves as a Guardian ad Litem, or child representative, in domestic relations cases.



Bar association ratings: Rated not qualified or not recommended by eight bar associations.

CIRCUIT COURT**INGRAM VACANCY****Elizabeth "Beth" Ryan****Experience:**

The Law Office of Elizabeth C. Ryan

- Trial attorney (2011-present): Private practice focused on personal injury cases.
- Newman, Boyer & Statham
- Attorney (2007-2011): Represented clients in personal injury and Social Security/disability cases.
- Circuit Court of Cook County
- Law clerk, Judge Martin S. Agran (2004-2006): Drafted memorandum opinions for a judge in the court's chancery division.



Notable: Ryan ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2020.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Endorsements: Personal PAC

Yolanda Harris Sayre  **Experience:**

Illinois State Police

- Legal counsel (2021-present): Represents the state police in employment cases, consults with the Illinois Attorney General's Office on litigation involving the state police.
- Illinois Secretary of State's Office
- Contract prosecutor (2019-present): Prosecutes license suspensions and revocations in administrative hearings.
- Cook County Board of Elections
- Administrative law judge (2010-2020): Presided over cases involving ballot petition challenges.
- Chicago Board of Elections
- Administrative law judge (2010-2018): Presided over cases involving ballot petition challenges.
- Chicago Police Department
- Attorney (1999-2021): Trained officers at the Chicago Police Academy on legal topics.



Notable: Sayre testified for the state at former Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke's murder trial about the use-of-force training she led at the police academy. Van Dyke's attorney said Sayre was likely Van Dyke's instructor, but Sayre said she couldn't recall him specifically.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by eleven bar associations. The Illinois State Bar Association rated her not qualified.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

CIRCUIT COURT**LEEMING VACANCY****Rena Marie Van Tine**   **Experience:**

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2021-present): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in February 2021. Hears civil jury trials with damages of \$50,000 or more.
- Associate judge (2001-2021): Heard civil jury trials and child protection cases.
- Illinois State Comptroller's Office
- Special counsel (1999-2001): Oversaw several divisions of the office.



Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (1987-1999): Tried felony cases in the criminal division and represented the county in medical malpractice lawsuits.

Notable: Van Tine was the first female Indian American state court judge in the country when she was selected as an associate judge in 2001, according to the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

Van Tine was the judge in a civil lawsuit filed against the City of Chicago by the family of Quintonio LeGrier, who was killed by Chicago police officer Robert Rialmo in 2015. The jury in the case awarded LeGrier's family \$1.05 million, but Van Tine overturned the jury's verdict based on a "special interrogatory" they signed saying that Rialmo was in reasonable fear of great bodily injury or death. Interrogatories are written questions about the facts of a case that any party in a lawsuit may ask a jury to answer separately from their verdict. The legal maneuver, commonly used in civil trials, has been criticized for confusing juries.

In a statement, Van Tine said, "As a trial court judge, I am required to apply the law whether or not I agree

with it. The law at the time of the LeGrier case required judges to give special interrogatories requested by any party and prohibited judges from tipping off a jury about how a response to an interrogatory could affect a verdict." She noted that the case was not appealed and the Illinois legislature has since changed the rules to allow judges to explain to jurors how their votes on special interrogatories might affect the verdict.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all and highly qualified or highly recommended by seven bar associations.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

Wende Williams  **Experience:**

DeLoach Law Office

- Attorney in private practice*: Focused on criminal defense, personal injury, and child support cases.



Notable: Williams ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2020 as Wendelin "Wendi" DeLoach. Williams, who used to practice law in Colorado, had her law license there suspended for 30 days in 1997 for representing a client in a murder case when she had previously represented a co-defendant in a separate matter. She used her prior relationship to visit the co-defendant several times in jail without his lawyer's knowledge or approval. She later acknowledged that her client and the co-defendant had competing interests because her client was offered a plea deal in exchange for testimony against the co-defendant.

*Injustice Watch could not verify her dates of employment, and the candidate did not respond to requests for comment.

Bar association ratings: Did not participate in the evaluation process.

CIRCUIT COURT

LYNCH VACANCY

Deidre Baumann



Experience:

Baumann & Shuldiner

- Partner (2001-present): Focused on civil rights, police misconduct, personal injury, and employment discrimination cases.

Deidre Baumann Law Offices

- Attorney in private practice (1996-2001): Focused on civil rights, police misconduct, First Amendment, employment, and criminal defense.

Michael Null and Associates

- Associate (1993-1996)



Notable: Baumann ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2010, 2012, 2016, and 2020. In 2003, a federal judge sanctioned Baumann and her former law partner in a case, saying they had failed to appear in court several times and delayed the case for three years. In 2009, Baumann represented families of people buried at Burr Oak Cemetery, a historically Black cemetery in Alsip, in a class-action lawsuit where workers had allegedly emptied graves in an attempt to resell the plots. The lawsuit was settled, but because the cemetery had filed for bankruptcy, most families received very little compensation. Baumann did not respond to a request for comment.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by most bar associations. The Illinois State Bar Association rated her not qualified, and the Chicago Bar Association rated her not recommended.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO, Personal PAC

Paul Joyce



Experience:

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (1999-present): Has worked in bond court and felony review, and as a prosecutor on felony cases. Currently works at the Skokie courthouse.

Notable: Joyce does not have an active campaign committee or website.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by eight bar associations and highly recommended by the Decalogue Society of Lawyers. Others were not available by press time.

Michael Weaver



Experience:

McDermott Will & Emery

- Partner and associate (2007-present): Currently oversees the firm's pro bono practice. Previously represented large companies, including Honeywell, in asbestos lawsuits.

High Court of American Samoa

- Law clerk (2006-2007): Drafted opinions for the court's chief justice and associate justice.



Notable: Weaver applied to be an associate judge in 2021 but was not selected.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all. Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association rated him highly recommended.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

CIRCUIT COURT

McGURY VACANCY

Ruth Isabel Gudino



Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2021-present): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court. Currently hears traffic cases at the Richard J. Daley Center.



Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (1997-2001; 2003-2021): Has served in many roles in the office, including supervisor of criminal prosecutions in Maywood, supervisor of the juvenile justice division, and director of legal hiring and recruitment.

United Auto Workers-GM Legal Services Plan

- Staff attorney (2001-2003): Worked on small claims, probate, real estate, and breach of contract cases for Ford and General Motors union employees.

Cook County Public Guardian's Office

- Assistant public guardian (1995-1997)

Notable: Gudino was a finalist for associate judge in 2019 but was not selected. Gudino's largest outside campaign donor is Monterrey Security Consultants, a politically connected private security firm that has faced allegations in Illinois and Minnesota of failing to comply with state regulations. Gudino did not respond to a request for comment.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all and highly qualified or highly recommended by three bar associations.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

Chelsey Renece Robinson

Experience:

Owens and Robinson

- Founding partner (1996-present): Private practice focused on family law, criminal defense, bankruptcy, and real estate.



Notable: Robinson is a legal consultant for the "Judge Mathis" show. She ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2016 and 2020.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by most bar associations. The Illinois State Bar Association rated her not qualified.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO

CIRCUIT COURT

O'BRIEN VACANCY

Araceli R. De La Cruz



Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2022-present): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court effective January 2022. Currently assigned to the traffic division.



Acero Charter School Network

- General counsel and chief administrative officer (2016-2021): Oversaw the legal department and compliance issues for network of 15 schools serving more than 7,000 students in Chicago.

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

- Chief of General Prosecutions, Division of Professional Regulation (2014-2016): Responsible for enforcing licensing regulations and reviewing disciplinary cases for professions such as cosmetology, roofing, and funeral directors.

Chicago Transit Authority

- Senior vice president and chief safety and security officer (2011-2014): Managed the CTA's security department and oversaw accident investigations.
- Deputy chief of staff (2010-2011)
- Chief of safety and security compliance (2009-2010)

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (2001-2009): Prosecuted cases in several divisions.

Notable: De La Cruz ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2020. De La Cruz was the attorney for Acero Schools in 2018, when several hundred teachers and staff staged the nation's first charter school strike. Acero Schools filed complaints against the Chicago Teachers Union with the National Labor Relations Board. The union ended the strike a few days later after reaching a new contract agreement with Acero. In an email, De La Cruz said that both sides dropped their labor complaints after the agreement was reached. She also noted that the charter school network and union negotiated several memoranda of understanding related to the Covid-19 pandemic during her time as general counsel.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all and highly recommended by Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

Candidate profiles for the O'Brien vacancy continue on the next page.

CIRCUIT COURT

O'BRIEN VACANCY

Jacqueline Marie Griffin

Experience:

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (2005-present): Prosecuted child support, child abuse, and juvenile delinquency cases. Has prosecuted felony criminal cases since 2012, with a focus on sexual assault and domestic violence cases since 2017.

Attorney in private practice

- (2007-present): Represents buyers and sellers in real estate transactions.

Notable: Griffin ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2020. Her father and two uncles were Chicago police officers.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by 11 bar associations. The Decalogue Society of Lawyers and Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association rated her not recommended.

Dan Balanoff

Experience:

Balanoff and Associates

- Managing partner (2007-present): Primarily focused on estate planning, real estate, and consumer bankruptcy law.

Notable: Balanoff is part of a progressive political family from Chicago's Southeast Side with roots in the labor movement. His father is Cook County Circuit Judge Robert Balanoff and his grandmother Miriam Balanoff is a former Cook County circuit court judge and state representative. His uncle, Clem Balanoff, is a former state representative and political consultant, and his father's first cousin is Tom Balanoff, who recently retired after a lengthy tenure as president of SEIU Local 1.

Bar association ratings: Rated not qualified or not recommended by seven bar associations. Three bar associations found him recommended. Others were not available by press time.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO



CIRCUIT COURT

Thomas More Donnelly

Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2021-present): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in December 2021. Presides over jury trials in wrongful death, police shooting, medical malpractice, and product liability cases.
- Associate judge (2003-2021): Heard a variety of cases, including domestic violence, consumer debt, and felony and misdemeanor criminal cases. Presided over civil jury trials.
- Circuit judge (1999-2000): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Cook County Public Defender's Office

- Assistant public defender (1988-1999)

Notable: Donnelly first ran for circuit judge in 2000, but lost to Matthew Coghlan. In 2011, Donnelly threw out the arrests of 92 Occupy Chicago protesters who violated the city's curfew by camping out in Grant Park. Donnelly said in his decision that the curfew ordinance was unconstitutional because the city selectively enforced the curfew. But the Illinois Appellate Court overturned his decision in a judgment later affirmed by the Illinois Supreme Court. Since 2016, Donnelly has been a board member of the Illinois Judicial College, which trains judges and staff across the state. Many of Donnelly's largest donors are personal injury law firms and lawyers, whose cases could come before him in the law division. In an email, Donnelly said, "As a judicial candidate I am not allowed to solicit campaign contributions. My committee handles fundraising matters and abides by all campaign finance rules and safeguards."

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by five bar associations and highly qualified or highly recommended by three. Others were not available.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO, Personal PAC

Claudia Silva-Hernandez

Experience:

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

- Labor counsel (2021-2022): Advised the office on labor and employment issues. Illinois Department of Human Services
- Administrative law judge (2019-2021): Heard appeals of decisions to terminate state and federal benefits, such as food stamps and child care subsidies.

Solo practitioner

- Contract attorney (2017-2019): Assisted with



SULLIVAN VACANCY

discovery requests for cases involving white collar crimes.

Independent Police Review Authority

- Staff attorney (2016-2017): Provided legal analysis for investigations into alleged misconduct by Chicago police officers.
- Chicago Housing Authority
- Contract attorney (2012-2016): Represented the CHA in administrative hearings about the termination of housing vouchers.

Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission

- Litigation counsel (2008-2011)
- Will County Public Defender's Office

- Assistant public defender (2007-2008)

Bar association ratings: Did not participate in the evaluation process.

Endorsements: CFL

Meridth Vanae Hammer

Experience:

The Hammer Legal Group

- CEO (2009-present): Private practice focused on real estate transactions, zoning issues, trusts, and estate planning. Served as an administrative law judge for the City of Indianapolis' code enforcement department.

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

- Deputy general counsel (2019-2021): Provided legal counsel, reviewed outside contracts, and managed outside counsel in employment cases. Crosstown Community Development Corp.
- Corporate counsel (2009-2012): Handled all legal matters for Indianapolis nonprofit, CA, Inc.
- Senior contracts manager and operations manager (2005-2009): Drafted and reviewed contracts for a software company.

Notable: Hammer was the campaign manager for Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown when she ran for mayor of Chicago in 2019. Brown was removed from the ballot for not having enough petition signatures. Hammer was hired as deputy general counsel in Brown's office shortly after. Brown was under investigation by the FBI at the time for allegations that she exchanged jobs for cash and political donations, but she was never charged. In an email, Hammer said Brown hired her for the position based on her "qualifications, experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities and commitment to public service." Hammer has a bachelor's degree in computer science, and before becoming a lawyer, she had a career in software development and information technology.

Bar association ratings: Did not participate in the evaluation process.



1ST SUBCIRCUIT

JOHNSON VACANCY

Maria M. Barlow

Experience:

The Barlow Law Firm LLC

- Principal attorney (2011-present): Primarily focused on family law and estate planning.

City of Chicago Law Department

- Assistant corporation counsel (2008-2011): Prosecuted various types of cases, including traffic tickets and building code violations.

Notable: Barlow ran for Cook County commissioner in the 4th district in 2018. She lost in the primary to Commissioner Stanley Moore.

Bar association ratings: Did not participate in the evaluation process.

John W. Wilson

Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2021-present): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court. Serves in the 4th municipal district at the Maywood courthouse.
- Cook County Public Defender's Office
- Assistant public defender (1997-2021): Served in numerous roles, including acting chief of the 6th municipal district (Markham) and homicide and felony supervisor in Markham. Also served on the homicide task force, a special division representing people accused of murder.

Notable: Before becoming a lawyer, Wilson was an administrator at City Colleges of Chicago and an assistant men's basketball coach at Wilbur Wright College. Some of Wilson's top donors include 4th Ward Ald. Sophia King; her husband, attorney Alan King; and his house music group, the Chosen Few DJs.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all and highly qualified or highly recommended by three bar associations.

Endorsements: CFL, IVI-IPO, Personal PAC



4TH SUBCIRCUIT

GAVN VACANCY

Nick Kantas



Experience:

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (2004-present): Currently supervises the juvenile delinquency division. Previously has served as a supervisor in the felony review unit and a prosecutor in the felony trial division.



Notable: Kantas applied for associate judge in 2019 and 2021, but was not selected. Kantas' wife, Maren Ronan, is a registered Illinois lobbyist who has worked for more than two dozen municipalities, school districts, companies, and nonprofits, including a red-light camera operator and Casa Central Social Services Corp.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Amanda Moira Pillsbury



Experience:

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (2005-present): Prosecutes felony criminal cases. Has also worked in child protection, juvenile justice and felony review units.



Notable: Pillsbury ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2018 and 2020. In her 2020 run, she received \$1,000 from Chicago businessman and perennial candidate Willie Wilson.

Bar association ratings: Rated not qualified or not recommended by five bar associations.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

4TH SUBCIRCUIT

ROGERS VACANCY

Jerry Barrido



Experience:

Cook County Public Defender's Office

- Assistant public defender (2000-present): Since 2019, represents defendants in felony cases at the Maywood courthouse. Before that, was a senior attorney handling hearings about transferring young people accused of serious crimes to adult court. Has also worked in the traffic division, juvenile justice division and forensic science division.



Notable: Barrido ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2018. He told Wednesday Journal in March that he deliberately chose to run in the Rogers vacancy because he wanted to challenge ShawnTe Raines-Welch, whose husband is Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch. "I deliberately wanted to give the people a choice as to whether or not they wanted to go with the status quo Democratic politics or to have someone who is a fighter in the courtroom, who has a reputation as a zealous advocate and a hard worker period," Barrido said.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO

Chloe Georgianna Pedersen



Experience:

Fletcher & Sippel, LLC

- Partner (2019-present): Leads the firm's labor and employment law practice.
- Associate (2014-2019): Represented railroads and other transportation companies on labor and regulatory issues.



Cook County Recorder of Deeds

- Chief legal and labor counsel (2012-2014): Advised the recorder on legal issues and investigated allegations of employee misconduct.

Office of the Illinois Attorney General

- Assistant attorney general (2010-2012): Defended state agencies in lawsuits, including civil rights and employment discrimination cases.

Illinois House of Representatives

- Assistant general counsel to Illinois House Speaker (2009): Served as the House Parliamentarian, advised on legal and parliamentary issues.

Querrey & Harrow, Ltd.

- Associate (2007-2010)

Notable: Pedersen is the niece of Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough. When Yarbrough hired Pedersen in 2012 as the chief legal counsel for the Cook County Recorder of Deeds Office, the county's inspector general said it violated the Cook County ethics code and asked Yarbrough to fire her, the Better Government Association and FOX 32 Chicago reported. In a statement, Pedersen said her hiring was vetted and approved by both the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the court-appointed monitors assigned to review hiring practices. "I was uniquely qualified to help the recorder with her transition given my background in civil rights, and labor and employment issues, and coming from the Illinois Attorney General's Office where I had previously worked with the same labor organization," she wrote.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations whose ratings were available by press time.

ShawnTe Raines-Welch



Experience:

Ancel Glick

- Partner (2019-present): Represents various suburban municipalities and a school district as general counsel. Also presides over traffic hearings and other administrative hearings for towns including Markham and Blue Island.

Sanchez, Daniels and Hoffman, LLC

- Associate (2011-2019): Defended municipi-



palities and school districts in civil rights and employment lawsuits.

Attorney in private practice

- (2009-2011): Represented plaintiffs in personal injury cases.

Notable: Raines-Welch applied to be an associate judge in 2021 but was not selected. Her husband is Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch. Raines-Welch has received large campaign contributions from labor groups, including LIUNA Chicago Laborers' District Council PAC and Chicagoland Operators Joint Labor-Management PAC; politicians, including state Rep. Marcus C. Evans Jr. and House Majority Leader Greg Harris; and corporations, including MuniBuy LLC, which buys and securitizes revenue streams from various municipalities in Illinois.

Raines-Welch's current municipal clients include Dolton and Calumet City. She has faced accusations in both suburbs of protecting the mayors over the interests of the trustees and towns. Raines-Welch and her campaign did not respond to requests for comment.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by 10 bar associations. The Illinois State Bar Association found her not qualified.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

Patrick Campanelli



Experience:

Patrick Campanelli, Attorney at Law P.C.

Attorney in private practice (1986-present): Focused on criminal defense, traffic, and personal injury cases.

Notable: Campanelli is married to former Cook County Public Defender Amy Campanelli. He ran unsuccessfully for judge in 1996 as a Republican.

Bar association ratings: Rated not qualified or not recommended by five bar associations. The Chicago Bar Association rated him qualified. Others were not available by press time.



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5TH SUBCIRCUIT

PORTMAN-BROWN VACANCY

David L. Kelly



Experience:

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2021-present): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court. Currently assigned to the traffic division.
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Supervising administrative law judge (2019-2021): Conduct hearings related to state and federal benefits programs.

Law Office of David L. Kelly

- Attorney in private practice (2006-2019): Focused on criminal defense and real estate law.

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (2001-2006): Prosecuted criminal felony and misdemeanor cases.

Notable: Kelly ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2018.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all and highly recommended by the Puerto Rican Bar Association of Illinois.

Endorsements: CFL, IVI-IPO, Personal PAC



Jenetia Marshall

Experience:

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

- Statewide compliance administrator (2021-present): Reviews investigations into child abuse and neglect and ensures compliance with court-ordered consent decree.
- Supervisor regional counsel (2019-2021): Represented the department in high-profile or complex cases in court, provided advice and counsel to administrative staff, and worked with state attorney general's office and local state's attorney's offices.

Cook County Office of the Public Guardian

- Senior attorney and Guardian ad Litem (2002-2019): Represented children in abuse and neglect hearings.

Notable: Marshall ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2018. She also applied to be an associate judge in 2021, but was not selected. Before becoming a lawyer, Marshall was a case manager for several youth-serving organizations in Chicago.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.



5TH SUBCIRCUIT

Timothy W. Wright, III

Experience:

Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer

- Managing partner (2011-present): Works on municipal finance transactions, commercial real estate transactions, and government affairs and regulatory issues.

Gonzalez, Saggio & Harlan

- Managing partner (2007-2011): Worked on government affairs and regulatory issues, mainly for energy companies.

Burris, Wright, Slaughter & Tom

- Partner (2004-2007): Worked on government affairs and regulatory issues.

Television station WJYS

- General counsel (1999-2003)

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest

- Attorney (1983-1985): Represented residents in the landmark Gautreaux case that challenged the racial segregation of Chicago's public housing.

Notable: Wright was a finalist for associate judge in 2021 but was not selected. In addition to his legal work, Wright was involved in politics in the 1980s and 1990s. He held director roles for the City of Chicago under mayors Harold Washington and Eugene Sawyer, was a domestic policy advisor for President Bill Clinton, and was chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush. In 2009, Wright represented Roland Burris, whose son was his former law partner, in matters involving his appointment to Barack Obama's Senate seat by Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who was soon after indicted on corruption charges.

From 2001 to 2014, the IRS filed six liens against Wright's home for nonpayment of nearly \$600,000 in taxes. In an interview, Wright said that those liens occurred while he was working outside the country and that he has since cleared his debts. During the late 1990s and early 2000s, Wright was director of the Southern African Economic Development Fund for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago and chairman of the Sub-Saharan African Advisory Committee of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Endorsements: CFL, IVI-IPO, Personal PAC



SHELLEY VACANCY

Judie Lyn Smith



Experience:

Cook County Public Defender's Office

- Assistant public defender (2004-present): Currently assigned to the Markham courthouse.

Law Office of Judie Lyn Smith

- Attorney in private practice (1994-present): Focused on real estate and wills and estates.

Office of the Illinois State Appellate Defender

- Assistant defender (1997-1999)

Notable: Smith worked for a year as a lawyer in Japan. Since 2017, she has taught criminal law and procedure as part of the training for new court interpreters.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by 11/13 bar associations. The Illinois State Bar Association and Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association rated her not qualified or not recommended.

Tiffany N. Brooks



Experience:

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

- General counsel (2020-present): Ensures office's compliance with applicable state, local, and federal laws and assists with the implementation of new laws.

City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection

- Assistant commissioner (2018-2020): Managed the intergovernmental affairs unit of the department and served as a liaison to the mayor's office, City Council, and other officials.

City of Chicago Civilian Office of Police Accountability

- Investigator (2018): Investigated police misconduct complaints.

Chicago City Council committees on economic development and education and child development

- Legislative aide (2015-2018): Served as a liaison between committee chairpeople, the mayor's office, and other elected officials. Helped review and draft ordinances.

Law Office of Tiffany N. Brooks

- Attorney in private practice (2013-2020): Practice included criminal defense, employment law, administrative hearings, estate planning, and bankruptcy and foreclosure cases.

Urban Partnership Bank

- Staff attorney (2011-2013)
- Senior lender (2004-2011)

Notable: Brooks ran for 5th Ward alderperson in 2015, but lost to incumbent Leslie Hairston.

Bar association ratings: Rated recommended by five bar associations and not qualified or not recommended by four. Other evaluations were not available by press time.

Candidate profiles for the Shelley vacancy continue on the next page.

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5TH SUBCIRCUIT**SHELLEY VACANCY****Jackie Marie Portman-Brown****Experience:**

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2008-2020): Presided over bond court hearings and felony trials. Oversaw deferred prosecution programs and the HOPE court, a specialty court meant to keep struggling probationers out of prison.



Independent Police Review Authority

- General counsel (2005-2008): Reviewed Chicago police misconduct investigations and consulted on legal issues.

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (1998-2005): Prosecuted child sexual abuse, narcotics, and misdemeanor cases. Also reviewed felony arrests.

Notable: Portman-Brown lost her judgeship in 2020 after voters did not retain her for another term. She is one of just two Cook County judges who have not been retained in the past three decades. Portman-Brown was placed on administrative duty in February 2020 after she was captured on video locking her 6-year-old grandniece alone in a courtroom holding cell for about 10 minutes. In an interview with Injustice Watch, Portman-Brown said the girl's mother asked her to put her in the holding cell. "There are some who didn't understand the tough love mentality that was intended for my grandniece, but there were a lot of people in this community who were raised with that. And my nephew, whose daughter it is, understood that," Portman-Brown said. "Would I do this again? Probably not. But her behavior has been improved since this incident."

Portman-Brown has proclaimed herself a "lock 'em up" judge in media interviews and faced criticism for her temperament on the bench. In 2018, Injustice Watch reported that the HOPE court program she ran was shut down after two separate outside reviews accused her of "bullying" behavior in the courtroom and questioned the program's efficacy. In an emailed response to Injustice Watch, Portman-Brown said the program was a success and the review by Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice mischaracterized the comments of the HOPE court team. "I am demanding of everybody including myself because the most important part is that we are all working toward the defendant's success and the program's success."

Bar association ratings: Rated not qualified or not recommended by 8/13 bar associations.

6TH SUBCIRCUIT**ARAUJO VACANCY****Charles "Charlie" Beach**

Beach is running unopposed in this primary.

For his full candidate profile, visit injusticewatch.org/judges.**6TH SUBCIRCUIT****VEGA VACANCY****David S. Rodriguez****Experience:**

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

- Deputy general counsel (2020-present): Advising the clerk on policy and legal matters. Rodriguez Law Group P.C.



- Attorney in private practice (2006-2020): Focused on a variety of cases, including contract disputes, family law, and real estate transactions.

State of Illinois Court of Claims

- Commissioner (2011-2017): Served as a part-time hearing officer for cases where people made claims of monetary damages or injury against the state.

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

- Deputy director of banking (1999-2006): Devised and handled banking policy.

Notable: Rodriguez ran unsuccessfully for Illinois Senate in 1998. He filed to run for judge in 2020, but did not get enough signatures to make the ballot.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO

Kerrie Maloney Laytin**Experience:**

Cook County Circuit Court

- Associate judge (2021-present): Hears traffic cases and landlord-tenant disputes in the Richard J. Daley Center.
- Circuit judge (2019-2020): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court. Heard traffic cases.



Illinois Human Rights Commission

- Chief administrative law judge (2021): Heard cases of alleged discrimination under the Illinois Human Rights Act and supervised other administrative law judges.

City of Chicago Law Department

- Assistant corporation counsel and senior counsel (2002-2019): Represented the city in cases before state and federal appellate courts.

Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago (now Legal Aid Chicago)

- Staff attorney (2000-2002): Represented people who couldn't afford an attorney in eviction, domestic violence, employment discrimination, public benefits, and other cases.

U.S. Department of Justice

- Trial attorney, federal programs branch (1999-2000): Represented the government in cases challenging the constitutionality of statutes and administrative actions.

Notable: The Illinois Supreme Court appointed Laytin to the circuit court in 2019, but she lost when she ran for a permanent seat in 2020. She was selected as an associate judge in 2021. Laytin holds investments in several private companies, according to her financial disclosure forms, including Chicago restaurants Giant and Chef's Special Cocktail Bar.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

7TH SUBCIRCUIT**MARTIN VACANCY****Marcia O'Brien Conway****Experience:**

Conway Law Office

- Attorney in private practice (2020-present): Focused on real estate transactions.



Marcia Conway, Attorney-at-Law

- Attorney in private practice (2018-2020; 1986-1991): Focused on real estate transactions.

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (1994-2018): Represented the county in litigation over real estate tax issues and in real estate transactions and lease agreements.

Notable: Conway ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2020.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all. The Chicago Council of Lawyers rated her well qualified, and the Puerto Rican Bar Association of Illinois rated her highly recommended.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

Owens "Joe" Shelby**Experience:**

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (2008-present): Prosecutes felony cases. Previously worked on domestic violence and child support cases, as well as on felony review and preliminary hearings.



Illinois House of Representatives

- Assistant counsel to the speaker (2008): Conducted legal research and analyzed proposed laws for committees on criminal law, financial institutions, and housing.

Law Offices of Loevy and Loevy

- Contract attorney (2007-2008): Provided legal assistance with a class-action lawsuit.

Notable: Shelby ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2014 and 2020.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO

8TH SUBCIRCUIT**Pat Casey****Experience:**

Attorney in private practice

- (2020-present): Focused on personal injury cases.
- (2003-2009): Focused on criminal defense, police misconduct, and personal injury cases.



Illinois Department of Human Services

- Supervising administrative law judge (2013-2019): Supervised other judges and heard appeals of denials of Medicaid benefits.

Illinois Department of Employment Security

- Administrative law judge (2009-2012): Heard appeals of denials of unemployment benefits.

Chicago Police Department

- Sergeant (2000-2002): Worked in the 15th district on the West Side, the 9th district on the South Side, and in central detention.
- Police officer (1993-2000): Worked in the 14th district on the Northwest Side.

Notable: Casey filed to run for judge in 2020, but withdrew before the election.

Bar association ratings: Rated not qualified or not recommended by 8/13 bar associations.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

Bradley R. Trowbridge**Experience:**

Law Offices of Bradley R. Trowbridge

- Attorney in private practice (2003-present): Practice focuses on family law, divorce, and domestic violence cases.



Has also served as a Guardian ad Litem, or child representative, in family court.

Pro Bono Advocates

- Staff attorney (2003): Represented survivors of domestic violence in orders of protection and child custody cases.

Legal Assistance Foundation

- Staff attorney (2001-2002): Represented clients in housing, domestic violence, Social Security benefits, and bankruptcy cases.

Notable: Trowbridge ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2012, 2018 and 2020. The IRS and the state of Illinois have filed liens against a property Trowbridge owns for nonpayment of more than \$88,000 in income taxes from 2008 through 2015. Trowbridge wrote in an email to Injustice Watch that he is in a

GORDON VACANCY

payment plan with both the IRS and Illinois. "I certainly did not intend to file inaccurate returns for those years," he stated.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO, Personal PAC

John Fritchey**Experience:**

F4 Consulting Ltd.

- Government relations director (2008-present): Runs a lobbying and political consulting firm. Worked as a political analyst for radio station WGN.



Cook County Board of Commissioners

- Commissioner, 12th district (2010-2018): Represented parts of Chicago's North and Northwest sides.

Law Office of John A. Fritchey

- Attorney in private practice (2004-2008): Focused on zoning and other administrative issues in Chicago.

Illinois House of Representatives

- State representative, 11th district (1996-2010): Represented parts of Chicago's North Side.

Notable: As a county commissioner, Fritchey was a staunch opponent of the penny-per-ounce "soda tax" and a proponent of marijuana legalization. Fritchey's lobbying and consulting firm has represented several cannabis companies in zoning issues before the City of Chicago, and also represents the Pilsen Wellness Center, a mental health and substance use treatment facility. He is not currently registered as a lobbyist with Cook County or the state of Illinois.

In 2013, the Chicago Tribune reported that Fritchey was one of a handful of politicians and wealthy individuals who had gotten Cook County judges to protect their identities in divorce proceedings by allowing them to file paperwork with initials instead of their full names. In an email, Fritchey wrote, "Illinois law allows for absolutely anybody to request to file under initials but it's likely not something that most people care to or choose to do. ... I didn't and don't see any special treatment whatsoever."

Bar association ratings: Rated not qualified or not recommended by four bar associations. Eight bar associations rated him qualified or recommended.

Endorsements: Personal PAC

8TH SUBCIRCUIT**Jennifer Bae****Experience:**

Cook County Sheriff's Office

- Director of employee discipline (2019-present): Oversees employee discipline and represents the sheriff's office in grievance and arbitration with union members.
- Member, Sheriff's Merit Board (2013-2017): Conducted disciplinary hearings for sworn members of the sheriff's office and voted on disciplinary actions.



Chicago City Council

- Staff attorney, finance committee (2017-2019): Wrote and advised on city ordinances and policies introduced in the finance committee.

Law Office of Jennifer E. Bae

- Solo practitioner (2012-2017): Focused on criminal defense.

Bae Law Offices

- Partner (2000-2012): Focused on criminal defense and civil rights law.

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (1997-2000)

Notable: Bae ran unsuccessfully for judge in the 12th subcircuit in 2016. If elected, Bae said she would be the first Korean American female judge in Cook County.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

LIPSCOMB VACANCY**Stephen Swedlow****Experience:**

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

- Co-managing partner (2012-present): Leads the Chicago office of a large international law firm. Represents both companies and consumers in civil and class-action lawsuits.



Korein Tillery

- Partner (2008-2011): Focused on intellectual property, class action, and civil lawsuits.

- Associate (2001-2004)

Swedlow & Associates

- Partner (2004-2008): Represented plaintiffs in class-action lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies, chemical companies, and consumer goods companies.

Latham & Watkins

- Associate (1996-2001)

Notable: Swedlow represented health insurance companies in a class-action lawsuit filed in 2016 against the federal government over unpaid fees related to the Affordable Care Act. The government was ordered to pay \$3.7 billion, and Swedlow's firm was awarded \$185 million in legal fees. Swedlow won a \$10.1 billion verdict in a class-action lawsuit against Philip Morris International in 2003. It was the largest civil judgment in Illinois at the time, but the judgment was overturned by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Swedlow currently represents plaintiffs in class-action lawsuits against Facebook and Amazon over alleged privacy violations. Early in his career, Swedlow represented plaintiffs pro bono in a civil lawsuit against Matthew Hale and his white supremacist, neo-Nazi organization World Church of the Creator, after one of Hale's followers killed two people, including Northwestern University basketball coach Ricky Byrdsong, and injured nine others during a shooting spree. As of May 12, Swedlow had loaned his campaign fund \$500,000, which is a notably large sum for a subcircuit race and nearly seven times as much as his competitor had raised.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all and highly qualified or highly recommended by three bar associations.

Endorsements: Personal PAC

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Sanjay Tailor

**Experience:**

Cook County Circuit Court

- Circuit judge (2021-present): Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court. Presiding judge of the county division, which hears cases about elections, name changes, adoptions, and mental health proceedings.
- Associate judge (2003-2021): Served in several divisions, including domestic relations, where he heard divorce and child support cases; law, where he heard contract and business disputes; and chancery, where he heard class action lawsuits, constitutional challenges to laws, and other civil cases.



Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (1996-2003): Represented the county and county officials in medical malpractice, civil rights, and other civil lawsuits.

Notable: In 2017, Tailor ruled in favor of the City of Chicago in a longstanding dispute with the city's main police union over the city's decision to maintain decades' worth of police misconduct complaint files, despite a provision in the police union contract that requires those files to be destroyed after five years. Tailor ruled that the contract provision violated the state's Freedom of Information Act and the public's interest in disclosure. That decision was upheld by the Illinois Appellate Court and Illinois Supreme Court. In 2018, he dismissed a lawsuit by then-Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios challenging a county ordinance that limited the amount of campaign contributions to elected officials from people who had sought "official action" from those same officials. The appellate court also upheld that decision. In 2019, Tailor ruled in a case brought by Injustice Watch co-founder Rob Warden that the Chicago Police Department could not withhold photos of police officers from the public.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all and highly qualified or highly recommended by six bar associations.

Endorsements: CFL, IVI-IPO, Personal PAC

Ann Buran-Vongher

**Experience:**

Cook County Public Defender's Office

- Assistant public defender (1989-2020): Represented clients in misdemeanor and felony cases and juvenile court.



Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by six bar associations. The Illinois State Bar Association rated her not qualified. Other evaluations were not available by press time.

Basileios "Bill" John Foutris

Experience:

Foutris Law Office, Ltd.

- Attorney in private practice (2005-present): Focused on police misconduct lawsuits.
- Knight, Hoppe, Kurnik, & Knight
- Associate (2002-2005): Represented police accused of misconduct.



Anesi, Ozmon, Rodin, Novak & Kohen

- Associate (2000-2002): Represented plaintiffs in personal injury lawsuits.

Notable: Foutris ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2020. He represented the family of Quintonio LeGrier in a wrongful death lawsuit against the City of Chicago and police officer Robert Rialmo. Rialmo killed LeGrier and his neighbor Bettie Jones while responding to a call for help. The jury in the case awarded LeGrier's family \$1.05 million, but the verdict was reversed by Judge Rena Marie Van Tine, who is also running for election this year, based on a finding by the jury that Rialmo was in reasonable fear of great bodily injury or death.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Torrick Alan Ward

Experience:

Cook County Department of Human Resources

- Deputy director of labor relations (2019-present): Manages the department's legal staff.
- Senior labor counsel (2015-2019): Represented the county in employment matters and labor negotiations.



Law Office of Torrick A. Ward

- Attorney in private practice (2010-2015): Focused on employment and family law.

City of Chicago Office of Compliance

- Deputy director and senior compliance officer (2008-2010): Managed internal investigations into workplace-related complaints and managed the city's Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity offices.

City of Chicago Law Department

- Assistant corporation counsel and senior counsel (1998-2007): Represented the city in labor-related lawsuits and issues.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations and highly recommended by Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association.

Barry Goldberg

Experience:

Office of the Illinois Attorney General

- Bureau chief, Charitable Trust bureau (2019-present): Brings civil and criminal cases against nonprofits and executives accused of fraud, misuse of funds and other violations of state law.
- Deputy bureau chief, Charitable Trust bureau (2018-2019).
- Assistant bureau chief, Charitable Trust bureau (2006-2017).
- Assistant attorney general, Charitable Trust bureau (1999-2006).



Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by eight bar associations and highly recommended by the Decalogue Society of Chicago. Other evaluations were not available by press time.

Endorsements: CFL, IVI-IPO, Personal PAC

Don R. Sampen

**Experience:**

Clausen Miller, P.C.

- Partner (2008-present): Focused on commercial litigation and appeals.
- Partner (2003-2008): Focused on insurance coverage and commercial litigation.



Office of the Illinois Attorney General

- Chief, Public Interest and Special Litigation divisions (2000-2003): Worked on special litigation, including a nationwide lawsuit against several tobacco companies.
- Assistant attorney general (1995-2000)
- Partner (1988-1995): Mostly focused on commercial litigation.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all. The Chicago Council of Lawyers rated him well qualified, and Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association rated him highly recommended.

Endorsements: Personal PAC

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11TH SUBCIRCUIT**McGUIRE VACANCY****Chris Taliaferro****Experience:**

Taliaferro Law Group

- Attorney in private practice (2016-present): Focused on divorce, child support, estate planning, and other domestic relations cases.



Chicago City Council

- Alderperson, 29th Ward (2015-present): Represents parts of the Austin, Belmont Cragin and Montclare neighborhoods on the city's West Side.

Nexus Legal Group

- Attorney in private practice (2008-2016): Focused on divorce, child support, estate planning, and other domestic relations cases.

Chicago Police Department

- Police officer (1994-2017): Promoted to sergeant in 2012. Took a leave of absence upon joining the City Council in 2015.

Notable: Taliaferro served in the U.S. Marine Corps before becoming a police officer. As an investigator in the Chicago Police Department's internal affairs unit in 2005, Taliaferro wrote a memo to department higher-ups about the high number of complaints against officers in the Special Operations Section, the Chicago Tribune reported. Several members of that unit later faced federal charges for stealing drugs and money from people they falsely arrested.

Taliaferro has been a reliable pro-police voice since joining the City Council. In 2019, Mayor Lori Lightfoot made Taliaferro the council's public safety committee chair. Since then, he has supported the mayor's version of an ordinance creating a new police oversight body and stalled attempts by fellow alderpeople to hold a hearing to question Police Superintendent David Brown about plans to address

gun violence last summer. In an interview, Taliaferro said he has supported police accountability efforts and does not always see eye-to-eye with the police department or unions. "I do love our police department and I love our police officers," he said. "But my voting record has always been what I thought was best for our city and my ward. And because of that, I've lost the support of the Fraternal Order of Police and the sergeants' union."

Bar association ratings: Rated recommended by four bar associations and not recommended or not qualified by four. Other evaluations were not available by press time.

Endorsements: CFL

Aileen Bhandari**Experience:**

Cook County State's Attorney's Office

- Supervisor, Community Justice Centers (2021-present): Oversees four neighborhood-based offices that prosecute criminal cases and support community outreach and crime prevention.
- Assistant state's attorney (2002-2019): Held various roles, including overseeing the Community Justice Center in the Austin neighborhood, prosecuting felony criminal cases, and working in the office's grand jury and felony review units.



Notable: Bhandari ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2020. She was also a finalist for associate judge in 2019.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or above by all and highly recommended by Chicago's LGBTQ+ Bar Association and the Puerto Rican Bar Association of Illinois.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO

13TH SUBCIRCUIT**GROEBNER VACANCY (GOP)****Christine Svenson****Experience:**

Svenson Law Offices

- Principal (2008-present): Focused on employment law, election law, and family law.



Cook County Republican Party

- General counsel (2012-2017): Represented the party in election lawsuits and other legal matters.
- Partner and associate (1998-2008): Focused on workers' compensation cases.

Notable: Svenson ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2018. In 2014, she represented a client who filed a lawsuit alleging sexual harassment against Dan Rutherford, then the Illinois state treasurer and a Republican candidate for governor. Rutherford accused Svenson and her client of fabricating the allegations to help his primary opponent, Bruce Rauner. Svenson denied political motivations. She said a previous \$3,500 payment from Rauner's campaign was for unrelated legal work.

Svenson has worked on several cases with Judicial Watch, a conservative legal group. In a 2015 case, Svenson represented a client who filed a lawsuit asking the court to force Cook County's cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer requests, which ask local jails to hold people who immigration officials suspect are in the country illegally. The county had passed a 2011 ordinance ordering the sheriff not to comply. A Cook County judge dismissed the lawsuit, and the Illinois Appellate Court later dismissed an appeal filed by Svenson, saying the case briefs submitted on her client's behalf were "completely deficient." In an emailed statement, Svenson said she had approved the documents but did not write them. She disagreed with the appellate court's assessment, writing, "Our brief was not deficient at all."

Svenson represents a reporter with the conservative news outlet The Daily Caller in a pending lawsuit against Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, claiming she violated the First Amendment in May 2021 when she granted interviews only to reporters of color to mark the midpoint of her first term.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by nine bar associations. The Chicago Bar Association rated her not recommended. Others were not available by press time.

Gary William Seyring**Experience:**

Law Offices of Gary W. Seyring

- Attorney in private practice (2010-present): Focused on real estate, contract disputes, domestic relations, contested estates, and personal injury cases.



Seyring, Watson & Galvin

- Attorney in private practice (2000-2010) Flynn, Murphy, Ryan & Seyring
- Attorney in private practice (1978-2000)

Notable: Seyring is running for judge in the 13th subcircuit for the fifth time. He lost in the Republican primary in 2014 and 2016, and lost in the general election in 2018 and 2020. In addition to his law practice, he also has served as an arbitrator with the Cook County Arbitration Program. Before becoming a lawyer, Seyring was an accountant for several years.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Dominic J Buttitta, Jr**Experience:**

Buttitta Law Group, LLC

- Managing attorney (2015-present): Focused on criminal defense and family law.



Carponelli & Buttitta, LLC

- Partner (2013-2015): Focused on criminal defense and family law.

McHenry County State's Attorney's Office

- Assistant state's attorney (2010-2013): Held various roles, including prosecuting misdemeanor and traffic cases, felony cases, white collar crimes, and mental health court cases.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations that were available by press time.

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13TH SUBCIRCUIT

GROEBNER VCY. (DEM)

James “Jack” Costello



Experience:

Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office

- Assistant state’s attorney (2007-present): Since 2019, has prosecuted public corruption and financial crimes cases. Previously prosecuted felony, misdemeanor and traffic cases, and worked in the felony review unit.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations that were available by press time.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC

Joe Gump



Experience:

Law Offices of Joseph M. Gump

- Attorney in private practice (2020-present): Focused on real estate transactions and misdemeanor criminal cases.
- Cook County Public Defender’s Office
- Assistant public defender (1989-2020): Started in the appeals division. Spent 17 years representing defendants in felony cases at the Rolling Meadows courthouse.

Notable: Gump ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2020. His parents served time in federal prison in the 1980s for participating in anti-war protests that allegedly caused damage to federal property, which Gump has said inspired his career in public defense.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Endorsements: IVI-IPO, Personal PAC



14TH SUBCIRCUIT

BROWN VACANCY

Iris Y. Chavira



Chavira is running unopposed in this primary. For her full candidate profile, visit injusticewatch.org/judges.

14TH SUBCIRCUIT

JAGIELSKI VACANCY

Steve Demitro

Experience:

Steve Demitro Law Office

- Attorney in private practice (2000-present): Focuses on personal injury, wrongful death, and criminal cases. Also works as an arbitrator.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

- Hearing officer (2014-2015): Heard appeals of cases involving water-related charges, pollution, and other issues.

Notable: Demitro dropped out of high school but later earned his GED diploma, went to law school, and passed the bar exam. He ran unsuccessfully for judge in 2012 and 2020.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations.

Viviana Martinez



Experience:

Chicago Public Schools

- Deputy general counsel (2022-present): Works on contract negotiations, procurements, and legal compliance.

Cook County government

- Special assistant for legal affairs, Bureau of Administration (2018-2022): Provided legal counsel to various county departments.
- Interim director, Department of Adoption and Family Supportive Services (2018-2019): Oversaw policy and training for the department responsible for social investigations of families involved in adoptions and parentage proceedings.
- Assistant special legal counsel, Office of Cook County President (2013-2018): Provided legal counsel to the office and various county departments.

Office of Cook County Commissioner Jesús “Chuy” García

- Chief of staff and general counsel



(2010-2013): Drafted legislative proposals, wrote speeches and press releases, and managed office staff.

Attorney in private practice

- (2008-2010): Represented people in immigration cases and foreclosure defense.

Office of the Illinois Attorney General

- Assistant attorney general (2007-2008): Worked on labor-related issues.

Bar association ratings: Rated recommended or qualified by six bar associations. Four bar associations found her not recommended or not qualified. Others were not available by press time.

Endorsements: CFL

Jorge V. Cazares



Experience:

Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP

- Partner (2020-present): Wide-ranging practice, including contract and business law, product liability, and representing local governments in employment and civil rights cases.

Pugh, Jones & Johnson, P.C.

- Director (2008-2020): Practiced personal injury defense, civil rights and employment discrimination defense, and real estate and commercial law.

- Associate and partner (1992-2006)

Chicago Housing Authority

- General counsel (2006-2008): Oversaw all legal matters for the public housing agency, including real estate development, personal injury cases, and housing regulation issues. Also served as the agency’s chief ethics officer and chief equal employment opportunity officer.

Exelon

- Litigation counsel (2005): Temporarily served as in-house counsel.

Bar association ratings: Rated not qualified or not recommended by five bar associations.



15TH SUBCIRCUIT

LAWLER VACANCY

Bernadette Barrett

Experience: The Barrett Law Group

- Attorney in private practice (2019-present): Focused on family law and civil litigation.

Barrett & Sramek

- Attorney in private practice (1991-2019): Focused on family law and civil litigation.

Notable: Barrett ran unsuccessfully for judge in the 15th subcircuit in 2004. Her husband, Michael B. Barrett, is a Cook County Circuit Court judge in the Markham courthouse.

Bar association ratings: Rated qualified or recommended by all bar associations that were available by press time.

Jim Gleffe



Experience: Cook County Clerk’s Office

- Deputy chief of staff and labor counsel (2020-present): Represents the office in employment issues.

Cook County Recorder of Deeds Office

- Chief deputy recorder and chief of staff (2018-2020): Worked on labor issues, contracts, and legislative priorities for the office.
- Chief legal counsel (2014-2018): Drafted and reviewed ordinances and worked on Freedom of Information Act requests.

Chicago City Clerk’s Office

- Policy analyst (2013-2014): Worked on city legislation related to the clerk’s office.

Illinois Secretary of State’s Office

- Chief deputy director, securities division (2012-2013): Oversaw regulatory and enforcement cases involving the sale of securities.

- Enforcement attorney (2009-2012)

City of Chicago Law Department

- Prosecutor (2007-2009): Prosecuted municipal code violations and traffic offenses.

Notable: Gleffe and his wife, Kristen Bauer, have close ties to former House Speaker Michael Madigan. Gleffe was a longtime precinct captain under Madigan in Chicago’s 13th Ward. Bauer is a registered lobbyist who has represented clients including ComEd, which is embroiled in a bribery scandal that led to Madigan’s indictment last year, and Green Thumb Industries, a cannabis company that was one of the first to receive licenses to grow medical marijuana in Illinois, according to the Chicago Tribune. In 2019, Gleffe was involved in efforts to challenge the ballot petitions of David Krupa, a college student who was running against 13th Ward Ald. Marty Quinn. Gleffe notarized several dozen affidavits from residents who said they wanted to withdraw their signatures from Krupa’s nominating petitions. But the Quinn campaign collected far more affidavits than the number of signatures Krupa had collected, leading to questions about the veracity of the affidavits, the Chicago Tribune reported. In a statement, a spokesperson for his campaign said, “The role of a notary is only to verify that the person signing a document is who they say they are. ... Jim carried out his notary duties in full compliance with the law.”

Bar association ratings: Rated not qualified or not recommended by four bar associations. Two bar associations rated him recommended. The other evaluations were not available by press time.

Endorsements: CFL, Personal PAC



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InjusticeWatch



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